

ABSTRACT

Computer software allowing enhanced control of the playout of audio/video works on a computer system. In various embodiments, the software allows key events from dedicated audio/video keys, whether part of a full sized keyboard or on a hand held remote, to control the actions of an audio/video playout program without requiring the user to direct the key event focus of the operating system to the audio/video playout program. Also, the invention distinguishes between key presses from a local, full sized keyboard and key presses from a remote keyboard so that the audio/video playout program can enlarge its screen display when a key event is received from the remote keyboard. In one embodiment, the invention constantly instructs the operating system to move the focus to the audio/video playout program. In another embodiment, if the focus is received by any of various windows in a display, software associated with the window forwards to the audio/video playout program any key events received from audio/video keys. In a third embodiment, audio/video key event data is routed to the audio/video playout program by a method that does not use the key event features of the operating system, such as by using a key board wedge server program to serve key events to audio/video client programs. In a fourth embodiment, the operating system is modified so that it has two separate focuses, one for a text keyboard and a second focus for audio/video keys.